"This week's raid is a victory for our families and local law enforcement," said Costa. "Our men and women in uniform put their lives on the line to make our communities safer. We owe them all a debt of gratitude for their service. Because of this historic coordination by local, state, and federal officials, our streets are cleaner and our neighborhoods are stronger."

Federal funds secured by Costa helped make the raid possible. Following the sweep, Kings County Sheriff Chris Jordan said, "It's only through the funding provided to us by Congressman Costa that allowed us to expand our narcotics enforcement operation and handle a case of this magnitude." (For more, click he

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In FY08, Costa delivered \$611,000 for the expansion of the Kings County Narcotic and Gang Task Force. This funding strengthened law enforcement in Kings County, allowing them to better fight drugs and gangs in the Valley.

Costa expressed his appreciation in a letter to the Kings County Narcotic and Gang Task Force, which can be viewed below.

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Dear Chief Shortnacy:

It is with great pride that I congratulate you and the other members of the Kings County Gang and Narcotics Task Force for your successful raid on the *Nuestra Familia* gang earlier this week. The magnitude of this case is certainly worthy of special recognition.

The arrests of over two dozen violent drug traffickers goes a long way towards making Kings County and the entire Valley a safer place to live. This sweep demonstrates the importance of collaboration between local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies in the fight against illegal narcotics trade. The work ethic and enthusiasm of each officer in your department is evident in the successful outcome of this operation.

There is no public safety issue more pressing in our Valley than the fight against violent gangs who traffic drugs through the region. Congratulations once again on your successful raid on the *Nuestra Familia* 

gang, and please let me know how I can be of assistance to your operations in the future.

Sincerly,

JIM COSTA Member of Congress